

## MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The following message was received from His Excellency the Governor of Texas:

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

Austin, Tex., March 17, 1891.

To the Honorable House of Representatives of the State of Texas:

Regretfully I am compelled from a sense of duty to disapprove House bill No. 517, entitled "An act to extend the corporate limits of the city of Beaumont," and it is hereby returned to your honorable body where it originated.

My reason for this action is that the bill is in violation of the State Constitution, for that it attempts to change the charter of Beaumont, a city of less than 10,000 inhabitants, by extending its boundaries.

Section 4, article 11 of the Constitution expressly provides that "cities and towns having a population of 10,000 inhabitants or less may be chartered by general law." Also section 56, of article 3, declares: "The legislature shall not, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution pass any local or special law \* \* \* incorporating cities, towns or villages or changing their charters; and in all other cases where a general law can be made applicable, no local or special law shall be enacted."

The only class of cities that can be incorporated by special law are those having more than ten thousand inhabitants. See article 11, section 5, Constitution.

In obedience to these constitutional provisions, and to give small cities like Beaumont an opportunity to extend their boundaries, article 343, revised statutes, was adopted, which provides that limits of such corporations may be extended by adding additional territory to the same whenever a majority of the qualified electors of said territory shall indicate a desire to be included within their limits.

As a rule special laws embrace features that are repugnant to those most affected by them. The one under consideration does not appear to be an exception, for it proposes to add more people and their property to the corporation to help bear its burdens without their consent. I trust, therefore, that your honorable body, on consideration, will conclude that it shall not pass.

Respectfully,

J. S. Hogg,  
Governor of Texas.